

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 18, 2016

Vice President-Elect Michael Pence
Trump Tower
725 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Vice President-Elect Pence,

As members of the House Armed Services Committee, we have the great responsibility and privilege to interact with the civilian leaders of our nation's armed forces on a regular basis. We understand the importance of these positions, and appreciate the skills, knowledge, and qualities of character that they require.

That being the case, we were pleased to hear that one of our colleagues, Congressman J. Randy Forbes, is being considered as the next Secretary of the Navy. We have all had the privilege of working beside Randy for years, and find him to be a great fit to lead our nation's Navy. Many of us have been fortunate to serve under Randy during his tenure as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Readiness (from 2011 to 2012) and the Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces (from 2013 to the present).

In both of these leadership roles, and in his general conduct as an 8-term Member of Congress, Chairman Forbes has proven himself to be:

- A leading strategic thinker on the many challenges facing our nation;
- A skilled communicator and authoritative commentator on defense issues;
- A key voice in opposing military cuts and calling for an end to defense sequestration;
- A tireless advocate for our men and women in uniform, veterans, and military families;
- A responsible steward of taxpayer dollars who has worked to achieve billions in savings;
- A team player, respected and liked on both sides of the aisle; and last but not least,
- One of the most authoritative and effective proponents of American seapower.

During your campaign, you pledged to revitalize our Navy and expand its fleet to roughly 350 ships. As you may know, this worthy objective is the same one that Chairman Forbes has been calling for and working towards for much of his career.

We firmly believe that Chairman Forbes' thorough understanding of Navy and Marine Corps programs and policy issues make him a very worthy candidate to help you with this great undertaking. As you likely know, Forbes is slated to leave the Congress at the end of this session in January. His departure will be a great loss to the Congress and our committee. Should he go into retirement or private employ, we'd be losing a wealth of experience and expertise in the defense arena.

You now have the opportunity to retain Chairman Forbes in government service, in a position for which he is unquestionably well prepared and qualified: Secretary of the Navy. We respectfully request that you seriously consider appointing him to this position without reservation, so that he might continue his honorable service to the national defense and our men and women in uniform.

Sincerely,



Rob Wittman
Member of Congress



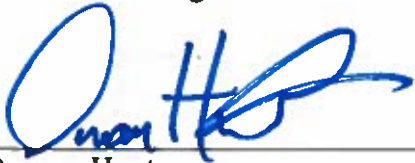
Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress



Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



Mike Conaway
Member of Congress



Bradley Byrne
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Ryan Zinke
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